

Saint Mary's Catholic Church

Mount Evelyn



Third Sunday of Advent (Year B)

17 December 2023

Readings

Next Week

2 Sam 7:1-5, 8-12, 14, 16
Ps 88:2-5, 27, 29
Rom 16:25-27
Lk 1:26-38

in a nutshell

Rejoicing in God, Our Saviour. Christmas is a feast of joy and light. We celebrate God who comes to dwell among us and save us. With the prophet Isaiah, we exult for joy in the Lord. With Mary, our spirits rejoice in God our Saviour. We do not deny the pain and evil that exist in the world, but we rejoice in the knowledge that nothing can come between us and the love and the love of God made visible in Christ Jesus.

we pray for

all who are sick or suffering and those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend: Harry & Dorothy Heering.
For those who have died recently: and all those whose anniversary occurs at this time:

of special note

Christmas & Holy Day of Obligation
Mass Schedule now available.

More information inside!

Raise Your Voices

Entrance Antiphon

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say,
rejoice.
Indeed, the Lord is near.

Responsorial Psalm

(R.) My soul rejoices in my God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her nothingness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed. (R.)

The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!
His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him. (R.)

He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy. (R.)

Gospel acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia!
The Spirit of the Lord is upon me;
he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.
Alleluia!

Communion Antiphon

Say to the faint of heart: Be strong and do
not fear.
Behold, our God will come, and he will save
us.

The Parish of St Mary's

Parish Priest

REV. MICHEL G CORRIVEAU

Parish Secretary

Janine Meades

Parish Office Hours

Thursday
9:00am-4:00pm

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Mass

Saturday—6:30pm (EST)
5:00pm (EDST)
Sunday—10:30am & 5:00pm

Weekday Mass & Rosary

Tuesday—9:00am
Thursday—9:00am
Friday—9:00am
Rosary prayed before morning Mass

Reconciliation

Saturday—11:30am-12:30pm
Friday—8:10am-8:40am

Exposition

Friday at 8:00am

Weddings

Please contact the office

Baptisms

Please see Father after Mass

Parish Primary School

Principal: Angela Glennie

Website:

smmountevelyn.catholic.edu.au

58 Clegg Rd, Mount Evelyn VIC 3796
Tel: (03) 9736 2850

Website: melbcatholic.org/s/mountevelyn

Email: mountevelyn@cam.org.au

Child Safety

Child Safety is everyone's responsibility. Our Parish is committed to the care, wellbeing and protection of children, and vulnerable people in our community.

Remember children should be accompanied by an adult family member to the toilet.

Safeguarding Committee

Fr Michel
Janine Meades
Alan Somers
Sue Van der Linden
Karla Zmegac

Car Parking –WEEKDAY Masses

Please use available car parks for Mass rather than the front of the church. Please Leave the front for the truly disabled.

Do you need a Helping Hand?

Ring the St Vinnies Call Centre 1800 305 330
Monday - Friday 10am to 3pm, St Mary's
Conference 0427 874 374 or Alan Somers
0419 134 300

Bulletin notices: by 12:00 noon Thursday
please: moutevelyn@cam.org.au

For positions vacant within the Diocese
visit:
<https://melbournecatholic.org/job-vacancies>

Regular Gardening/Working Bee—1st & 3rd Friday
Thank you to the volunteers who turn up to assist with the maintenance of the grounds around the church. 4pm onwards

Parish Meetings: Tuesday, 13 February

Finance Committee 7:00pm
Parish Safeguarding 7:30pm
Parish Council 8:00pm

DONATIONS TO THE PARISH



Parish Notices

Mass Attendance Fourth Sunday Advent & Christmas

As you know, Christmas falls on Monday this year. This makes the Christmas Vigil fall on Sunday night. Christmas is one of two Holy Days of Obligation meaning that we are obliged to go to Mass as we do on every Sunday. This means that we are obligated to go to Mass once for the Fourth Sunday of Advent and once for Christmas (yes, twice this weekend!). The Masses for the Fourth Sunday of Advent are Saturday night and Sunday morning, which serve for our Sunday obligation. The Sunday evening and Monday morning Masses will be for our Christmas obligation. Please ask father if there is any confusion.

Special Collection Last week

Thank you for your generosity, \$608.10 was donated across both Parishes.

SVDP Giving Tree—Last Week for Your Donations

Instead of presents we will be giving gift vouchers so people can get what they need, as many have found this year very unpredictable. You are invited to make a donation of a gift voucher or make a cash donation by placing it in an envelope and placing in the box in the foyer by 17th December.

Christmas Raffles Hampers

Raffle tickets available at each mass.

Christmas Eve Vigil Mass

Children are encouraged to come dressed as a Nativity character; shepherd, king, angel, Mary or Joseph.

SVDP News

The Piety Stall has in stock the 2024 Columban Art Calendar at \$10.00 each. We also have a stock of Christmas Cards in packs of 5 for \$3.00 each.

Adoration of the Eucharist

Whenever we come near to the tabernacle, we come into his hidden but powerful presence; we are in the Court of Heaven, in the presence of our King. We can adore him and share our lives with him in a most intimate and profound way. This comes into special focus when we have Eucharistic Adoration. Christ is not "more present" in this way, but he is "more visible", and given more public honour. We are more conscious of his holy Presence, more attentive, more grateful, and our love for the Eucharist is deepened. (Fr. Stephen Wang)

Confession: The Lord has designed his sacraments wisely and lovingly, in a way that best responds to the needs of our nature.

Adoration: Friday morning 8:00am. Yarra Junction Thursday 6:00pm (first Thursday Warburton). Confessions available during Adoration.

Stewardship Corner

"Rejoice always. Pray without ceasing. Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus." – 1 Thessalonians 5:16 - 18

This scripture reading sums up Stewardship. "Rejoice always" means place your trust in God; He will provide all that you need. "Pray constantly" means prayer should be a running conversation with God throughout the whole day, every day. "Give thanks in all circumstances" means even in bad situations, thank God. Suffering a little bit helps build empathy for others in similar situations and shows our dependence on God.

Parish Sacramental Program 2024 Enrolments

For Children, not attending the Parish School, wanting to receive the Sacraments, Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, instructions are available through our Parish. Contact the parish office or annevan.tilburg@gmail.com Contact Anne by mid-December for 2024 enrolments.

Archbishop Peter Comensoli's request for Ukraine

Cards and envelopes are available in the foyer for donations or you can use the bar code to contribute online. More information is available in the foyer.

St Mary's Prayer Group—Every Friday

The Prayer Group meets every Friday in the church from 2-3 p.m. "Prayer is the raising of one's mind and heart to God or the requesting of good things from God" (St. John Damascene).

Morning Tea after 10.30am Sunday Mass

Stay and chat over a cuppa! Consider joining the roster to assist in serving. If you are unable to serve but would like to contribute, donations of packaged biscuits would be appreciated. Contact Rachael 0437123802

NOTE: No morning tea after Tuesday 9:00am Mass in January, resumes the first Tuesday in February.

Something to Make You Smile!

A rich and cranky old lawyer who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness was determined to prove the old saying, You can't take it with you, was a load of bollocks.

After much consideration, he figured out how to take at least some of his money with him when he died. He instructed his wife to go to the bank and withdraw enough money to fill two pillowcases. He then directed her to take the bags of money to the attic and leave them directly above his bed.

His plan: When he passed away, he would reach out and grab the bags on his way to heaven. Several weeks after the funeral, the deceased lawyer's wife was in the attic cleaning when she found the two forgotten pillowcases stuffed with cash.

"Oh, that old fool," she exclaimed. "He should have asked me to put the money in the basement."

Christmas Mass Times – Mount Evelyn

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 5:00pm (Carols from 4:40pm)

Midnight Mass – 12:00am (Carols from 11:30pm)

Christmas Day —10:30am

N.B. No Morning Mass Tuesday 26 December

Christmas Mass Times – Upper Yarra Valley

Christmas Eve – Vigil Mass 7:00pm Yarra Junction (Carols from 6:30pm)

Christmas Day – 8:30am Warburton

Readings Reflection

[One Who is Coming](#)

The mysterious figure of John the Baptist, introduced in last week's readings, comes into sharper focus today. Who he is, we see in today's Gospel, is best understood by who he isn't.

He is not Elijah returned from the heavens (see 2 Kings 2:11), although like him he dresses in the prophet's attire (see Mark 1:6; 2 Kings 1:8) and preaches repentance and judgment (see 1 Kings 18:21; 2 Chronicles 21:12–15).

Not Elijah in the flesh, John is nonetheless sent in the spirit and power of Elijah to fulfill his mission (see Luke 1:17; Malachi 3:23–24).

Neither is John the prophet Moses foretold, although he is a kinsman and speaks God's word (see Deuteronomy 18:15–19; John 6:14). Nor is John the Messiah, though he has been anointed by the Spirit since he was in the womb (see Luke 1:15, 44).

John prepares the way for the Lord (see Isaiah 40:3). The baptism he performs is symbolic, not sacramental. It is a sign given to stir our hearts to repentance.

John shows us the One upon whom the Spirit remains (see John 1:32), the One who fulfills the promise we hear in today's First Reading (see Luke 4:16–21). Jesus' bath of rebirth and the Spirit opens a fountain that purifies Israel and gives to all a new heart and a new Spirit (see Zechariah 13:1–3; Ezekiel 36:24–27; Mark 1:8; Titus 3:5).

John comes to us in the Advent readings to show us the light, that we might believe in the One who comes at Christmas. As we sing in today's Responsorial, the Mighty One has come to lift each of us up, to fill our hunger with bread from heaven (see John 6:33, 49–51).

And as Paul exhorts in today's Epistle, we should rejoice, give thanks, and pray without ceasing that God will make us perfectly holy in spirit, soul, and body—that we may be blameless when our Lord comes.

[Dr. Scott Hahn](#)
stpaulcenter.com

Joy exists because God exists and is with us!

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We have heard Isaiah's prophesy, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted ... to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour" (Is 61:1–2). These words spoken so many centuries ago, ring out, in a very up-to-date way for us too, today, while we are halfway through Advent and already look forward to the great Solemnity of Christmas. These are words that revive hope, that prepare us to welcome the Lord's salvation and announce the inauguration of a season of grace and liberation.

Advent is precisely a time of waiting, of hope and of preparation for the Lord's coming. The figure and preaching of John the Baptist invite us to make this commitment, as we heard in the Gospel that has just been proclaimed (cf. Jn 1:6–8, 19–28). John had withdrawn into the wilderness to live a very austere life and to invite people to conversion, also by the example of his life. He conferred on them a baptism of water, a single rite of penance which distinguished it from the many rites of external purification of the sects of that time.

So who was this man? Who was John the Baptist? The response he himself gave is surprisingly humble. He was not the Messiah, he was not the light. He was neither Elijah come back to the earth nor the great prophet awaited. He was the Forerunner, a simple witness, totally subordinate to the One he proclaimed; a voice in the wilderness, as in our day too, in the wilderness of the great cities of this world, of the great absence of God, we need voices that simply announce to us "God exists. He is always near, even if he seems absent".

John the Baptist was a voice in the wilderness and a witness to the light; and this moves our hearts, for in this world where there are so many shadows, so much darkness, we are all called to be witnesses of light. This is the mission of the Season of Advent itself: to be witnesses of light, and we can only be this if we carry the light within us, if we are not only certain that the light exists, but also that we have seen a ray of light.

In the Church, in God's word, in the celebration of the sacraments, in the Sacrament of Confession with the forgiveness that we receive, in the celebration of the Blessed Eucharist where the Lord gives himself into our hands and hearts, we touch the light and receive this mission: to bear witness today that there is light, and to carry the light in our time.

Dear brothers and sisters, I am very glad to be with you on this beautiful, "Gaudete" Sunday, the Sunday of joy that tells us that "even in the midst of so many doubts and difficulties, joy exists because God exists and is with us!"...

"Brethren.... Rejoice always" (1 Thes 5:16). This invitation to joy which St Paul addressed to the Christians of Thessalonica in that time, also characterizes this Sunday, commonly known as "Gaudete" Sunday. It resonates from the very first words of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice! The Lord is at hand"; St Paul, in prison, wrote these words to the Christians of Philippi (cf. Phil 4:4–5) and also addresses them to us.

Yes, we are glad because the Lord is near us and in a few days, on Christmas night, we shall be celebrating the mystery of his birth. Mary, who was the first to hear the Angel's invitation: "Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you!" (Lk 1:28), points out to us the way to reach true joy, which comes from God. St Mary of Grace, Mother of Divine Love, pray for us all. Amen!

From a pastoral visit by Pope Benedict XVI